

**From:** Howard Jones  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 2:28pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Just finish the case with the agreed settlement and let Microsoft get back to its prime focus on making great software at reasonable prices for the masses.

As a consumer, I make choices with my wallet and I make them carefully. As a consultant in the technology industry I have exposure to many operating systems and software applications and therefore am very familiar with the offerings from Microsoft's competitors. Using my knowledge and my wallet I chose to purchase Microsoft products for my own and my family's use. I have never felt overcharged... on the contrary, I feel that the products offer far superior value compared with other offerings.

For some reason my all-knowing government chooses to call this phenomenon a monopoly and has wasted years and countless taxpayer \$ on pursuing that folly. Then Microsoft has the misfortune to have Judge Jackson head the proceedings - a man whom I'm sure is very intelligent on certain matters but who has absolutely no clue about the technology industry and what is or isn't good for consumers. The entire process was a farce and an insult to the intelligence of the American people. For Microsoft to have to make any retribution for past business practices is nothing more than an extortion crime perpetrated by the US government and the attorneys general for the states that chose to be involved. Our government is supposed to protect and serve the American people. The lawsuit did neither although seemed to derive from the misguided impression that Americans needed to be protected from Microsoft. If Americans felt that way they would not have bought the products and would have accomplished what the DOJ had no business trying to do in the first place. Apparently the judicial branch of our government no longer believes in capitalism and feels that they need to interfere with an otherwise very efficient process. Leave the interfering for companies and industries that are price fixing and inflating prices and truly hurting consumers - the energy industry is a great example - as our nation was going into recession the energy producers were recording record profits and consumers were paying record prices at the pumps and to heat their homes. Now there is an industry that should be forced to pay something back. Leave Microsoft alone!

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